

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 is amended to correct a typographical error, the word “a” is now inserted on line 3. Claim 11 is amended to correct a typographical error, the word “sheet” is now inserted on the last line. Claims 1-24 are active in the present application. Claims 12 and 13 are currently withdrawn from prosecution.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS

The Office rejected Claim 1 for indefiniteness on the ground that there is no antecedent basis for the term “plurality of hydrophobic nanostructured particles” which appears on line 6. Independent Claim 1 is amended herein for clarity. Applicants submit the amendment overcomes the rejection without further limiting the claimed subject matter.

The Office rejected the claims in view of a patent to Kerins (U.S. 6,638,603) in combination with a publication to Keller (EP 1153987). Applicants traverse the rejection on the ground that those of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation for combining the prior art relied on by the Office.

Kerins describes a process that includes screen printing a coating on a water sensitive film (see the title of Kerins) whereby a molten polymer is applied to a water-sensitive film (see column 3, lines 28-33 of Kerins). The Office acknowledges that Kerins et al. “do not specifically teach transferring hydrophobic particles having a nanostructured surface to a textile sheet” (see page 4, lines 5 and 6 from the bottom of the Office Action of July 31).

The Office attempts to remedy this deficiency of Kerins by relying on Keller’s disclosure of compositions that are used in the production of poorly wettable surfaces (see the English Abstract of Keller provided by the Office).

A first reason why those of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Kerins and Keller lies in the different products obtained from the respective prior art publications. Kerins discloses a process that forms a “water-sensitive product” which dissolves or disperses when placed in contact with water (see the Abstract of Kerins). In contrast, Keller discloses a process for the production of a “poorly wettable surface” (see the English Abstract of Keller). It is inconceivable that one of ordinary skill in the art would modify a process for producing a water-sensitive product according to the conditions of a process for making poorly wettable surfaces. Applicants submit that a process for making a

water-sensitive product is contradictory to making a poorly wettable surface. On its own this difference in the prior art relied on by the Office is sufficient to demonstrate that those of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined Kerins and Keller and the rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

In addition to the above-mentioned reason that one of skill in the art would not have motivation for combining Kerins and Keller, Applicants point out that there is no basis for the Office's assertion that it would be obvious to substitute the molten polymer of Kerins with the powder of Keller. Applicants submit it is readily evident to those of skill in the art that a molten polymer and a powder are materials that have substantially different properties. The polymer of Kerins is applied to a water-sensitive film by melting the polymer and applying it to the water-sensitive film in a manner that is similar to screen printing (see column 3, lines 44-65 of Keller). Applicants submit that it is readily evident that the techniques and methods for applying a molten viscous liquid onto a surface are in no way related to the methods and/or techniques of applying a powder onto a surface.

Moreover, Keller exemplifies the use of inorganic particulate materials such as silica, a material that is not amenable to being melted and applied by screen printing. Thus, those of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to combine Keller and Kerins and would further have no reason to believe that using the Keller particles in the molten liquid printing process of Kerins would be successful or feasible.

Further still, the present claims require the application of hydrophobic particles having a nanostructured surface. Applicants submit it is readily evident to those of ordinary skill in the art that viscous liquid materials such as polymers, when printed as liquids, do not provide a nanostructured surface but instead have smooth surfaces caused by the surface tension of the liquid. The Office provides no explanation why or how one of ordinary skill in the art could apply a molten polymer in a manner to produce a nanostructured surface.

In summary, the Office's rejection of the present claims in view of Kerins and Keller ignores the basic difference that are inherent in processes that handle liquid polymers in comparison to processes that handle solid powders. For this reason, and the other reasons noted above, Applicants submit the rejection is not supportable and should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request the mailing of a Notice of Allowance acknowledging patentability of the presently claimed subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

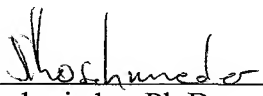
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